Appl. No. 10/040,027

Amdt. dated October 7, 2003

Reply to Office Action of September 16, 2003

REMARKS

The Examiner states:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-15, drawn to a product ...

II. Claims 16-20, drawn to a method ...
(Office Action, page 2.)

Applicant hereby elects group I, Claims 1-15. Claims 16-20 have been canceled and the title has been amended accordingly.

The Examiner further states:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species 1: Figure 8, and Species 2: Figure 4.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. (Office Action, pages 2-3.)

Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, Species 1 and assert that Claims 1-14 are readable upon the elected species. This election is made with traverse in that group I, Claims 1-15, drawn to a product, are elected for the response to the restriction requirement and Figures 4 and 8 are block diagrams illustrating operations in a process for manufacture. Accordingly, the Examiner is improperly requiring election of species from figures drawn to processes for claims drawn to a product.

GUNNISON, McKAY & HODGSON, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza 1900 Garden Road, Suite 220 Montercy, CA 93940 (831) 655-0880 Fax (831) 655-0888

Appl. No. 10/040,027

Amdt. dated October 7, 2003

Reply to Office Action of September 16, 2003

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 223 B-1450, on October 7, 2003.

Attorney for Applicant(s)

October 7, 2003
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Serge J. Hodgsøn

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 40,01/7

Tel.: (831) 655-0880